angles. The RBI is seized of the matter and shall be advising the bank regarding the steps that be taken to minimise delays.

Decline in deposits of regional rural Banks

2639. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Regional Rural Banks are said to be starved of deposits and are thus unable to play their intended role in rural development;

(b) if so, what steps are being taken to attract more deposits to these banks;

(c) what is the deposit mobilisation record of these banks for the last five years;

(d) what prevents Government from offering a higher rate of interest on deposits with Regional Rural Banks as a measure of rural development and improvement of the lot of the rural investors; and

(e) whether there is any proposal to merge the Regional Rural Banks with the public sector commercial banks?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI): (a) and (b) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) have reported that the Regional Rural Banks have recorded on impressive growth rate in mobilisation of deposits during the last few years. In order to give further boost to the deposits in Regional Rural Banks, Central Government have advised State Governments that State agencies functioning at District levels should keep their deposits with PRBs to the extent feasible. Reserve Bank of India has also advised the sponsor banks to involve RRBs in work relating to Rural Publicity for improving customer service which may help in mobilising more rural deposits.

(c) The deposit mobilisation by Regional Rural Banks during the last five years is as under:—

As at the end of the year	Rs. in crores
1984	959.97
1985	1285.82
1986	1714.94
1987	2305.82
1988-89 (15 months period ending March 1989)	3118.58

(d) Reserve Bank of India have permitted RRBs to pay 1/2 per cent interest more than Commercial Banks on savings and time deposits upto 2 years.

(e) There is no proposal to merge DDBs with publis sector commerciall banks at present.

Plan to set up production of Steel

2640. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Steel Authority of India Limited has prepared a plan to set up steel production over the next five years; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHD. KHAN): (a) and (b) The Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL) plan to step up ther production of crude steel from the level of 8.27 million tonnes reached last year, i.e. 1989-90, to 13.17 million tonnes at the end of the 8th Plan in 1994-95. The fulfilment of the plan will, however, depend on various factors, of which